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THE
CORBETT
HOSPITAL
APPEALS TO YOU



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[Bernard Partridge.]

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THE CORBETT HOSPITAL IN 1893

A Story awaiting a Sequel

ON the crest of a hill in Amblecote, amidst beautiful surroundings of many acres, stood a mansion aptly named The Hill.

A large hearted man, Mr. John Corbett, purchased this estate in May 1892 for the purpose of a hospital.

This site for a hospital was ideal, with a commanding view extending to the distant hills. The geographical position too was excellent, for it was within easy reach of the big industrial areas to which it would minister.

The house was transformed into a hospital with 18 beds, and with the necessary equipment was presented and endowed by Mr. Corbett.

The Corbett Hospital was opened on its great mission of healing on the 23rd August, 1893.

Extensions soon became necessary

Before many months had elapsed, the sick and injured were flowing in, and the 18 beds were always occupied. Indeed, in 1895 the Board of Management found it necessary to add several beds, and within three years from the opening of the Hospital, another addition was made, this time a Children's Ward, the expense of which was defrayed by Mr. Corbett. Further Staff appointments became necessary, and for their accommodation, an addition to the buildings was made.

Further Extensions

In 1897 an isolation ward was opened; in 1899 a further isolation ward became necessary, and was added.

In 1900 a residence for a Medical Officer was erected. The cost of this and several other additions and improvements, was met by the generous donor.

Between the years 1901 and 1920, other additions that were urgently needed were carried out.

The War — and after

When the Hospital had recovered from the demands entailed by its War Office rating as a First Line Hospital in the late war, involving the use of the Out-Patient Department as a ward for wounded soldiers, it was proposed that the accommodation should be increased to 43 beds.

This scheme did not materialise, although the need for extra beds had been extremely pressing for the past ten years.

Extensions continue

The situation was slightly relieved by the erection of a temporary female ward in a wooden structure, which contained nine beds. These were immediately called into use, and the position was very soon as acute as ever.

Further Extensions were suggested

The Board very carefully considered the advisability of erecting further extensions, and decided that this policy was economically unsound and could not be pursued indefinitely, as the existing extensions had already obstructed the air, light and sunshine in some of the present wards, and to build such erections at a cost of some thousands of pounds would be money mis-spent. Furthermore, if these extensions were erected they would not deal with the extra number of beds so urgently required, while the Out-Patient Department and the better accommodation for Nurses would still remain as unsatisfactory as ever.

What the Board knew

For some years, the Board had known that extra beds were urgently needed, and that the Out-Patient Department was totally inadequate to fulfil its ever increasing duties. Also, that the Medical and Surgical Staff was handicapped by working under considerable difficulties. Moreover, the accommodation for the Nursing Staff had long been most unsatisfactory, and the Administrative Staff was labouring under similar difficulties.

The Board makes an Important Decision

So exceptional have been the demands upon the Hospital that patients were often turned away owing to lack of accommodation, and others were prematurely discharged to make room for more urgent cases. Never before have hospitals been so congested, and the Board is anxious not to impose any additional burden on other hospitals by sending them patients from the district which should be served by this Hospital.

After long and careful consideration, the Board decided that the only solution to the many difficulties that confronted them was to rebuild the Hospital, and at a convenient time to demolish the old building.

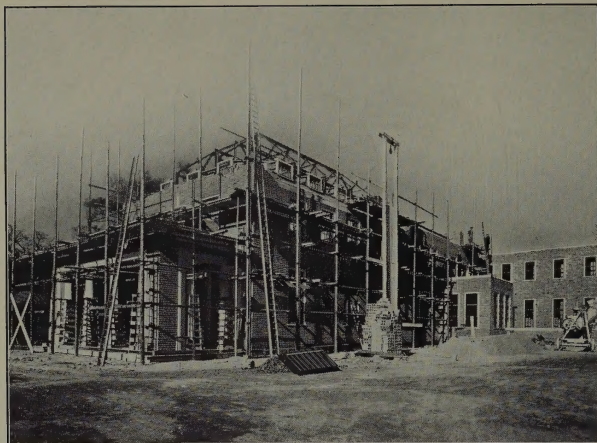
It may be said that the time is not opportune for embarking upon such an enterprise, but the situation is so serious that further postponement is unthinkable. If times are bad, the cost of building is low, and employment will be found for men who are sorely in need of work.

The Hospital is going up

On a magnificent site of some 30 acres of green pastures and woodlands, the rebuilt Hospital will stand.



So imperative was the need for the new buildings that the Board has already placed contracts for three sections of the Hospital, upon which work is now proceeding. The above photographs show Unit Number Two nearly completed, and one of its four wards occupied by patients.



The above photographs show that rapid progress is being made upon the Administrative Section—Unit Number Three, and the Nurses' Home—Unit Number Five.

The Rebuilt Hospital

The fullest advantage has been taken of the admirable site in planning the buildings, which will result in the lowest maintenance costs consistent with efficiency.

It has been arranged that building operations will not interfere with the work of the existing Hospital.

When completed, the rebuilt Hospital will consist of five units, brief particulars of which are given below. These units will be joined by a corridor, facilitating communication between the various sections.

Unit Number One—Out-Patient Department

This building will house all the departments necessary for giving the most modern and scientific treatments to out-patients.

Unit Number Two—Male Wards

An air of quiet efficiency reigns over these spacious male wards. All the beds on either floor can be wheeled out on to a terrace or balcony, thus offering the patients every ray of sunshine and breath of fresh air.

In addition, this unit will comprise an operating theatre, with various rooms for the use of surgeons and sisters, a day room, several store rooms, isolation and private wards, sterilising rooms, kitchens and other necessary accommodation.

Unit Number Three—Administrative Offices and Children's Ward

Few people realise the amount of clerical routine essential to the efficient administration of a hospital. A peep at the Third Unit will demonstrate this, for it is here—in the centre of the scheme—that we find the secretarial department, with separate offices for the matron, assistant matron, office staff and the secretary, together with the necessary waiting rooms and Board room. Also a children's ward and play room, and accommodation for at least two resident medical officers. The main kitchen, dining rooms, larders and other offices are in this central building.

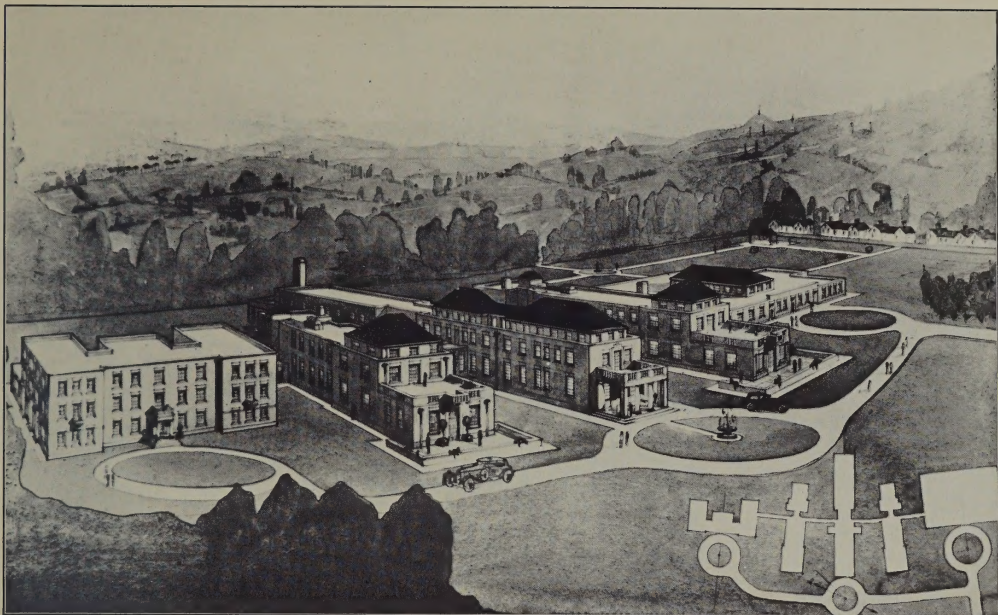
Unit Number Four—Female Wards

This will be set aside for the exclusive use of women patients, and as it is a replica of Unit Number Two we can proceed at once to—

Unit Number Five—Nurses' Home

This is the Nurses' Home, comprising recreation and sitting rooms, lecture room, quiet room, thirty-six bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, and other offices.

We have already stressed the necessity for suitable staff accommodation, and in their new home, which will be worthy of their noble profession, the nurses will be able to enjoy a reasonable amount of comfort and privacy when they are off duty.



Efficient Service

When the Hospital is rebuilt as shown above, it will contain 84 beds—just double the existing number. This will qualify the Hospital as a Training Centre for Nurses, which will be a considerable advantage in connection with the Staff.

The ample room and facilities, which will be at the disposal of the Medical and Surgical Staff, will give them the much desired opportunity for keeping abreast of the continuous developments of medicine and surgery.

The Board has reason to believe that the Corbett Hospital will be one of the finest and most modern hospitals of its size in the country, and that it will be capable of rendering that efficient service which will be a boon to the sick and ailing and injured of this thickly populated and industrial district.

All our resources are willingly placed at the disposal of rich and poor alike, who can command the most skilful treatment available to restore them speedily to health.

We Appeal to You

Will you, with your gift, help to provide us with the means to enable us to render the efficient service of which we have spoken?

This is the first time since the foundation of the Hospital that we have made such an appeal. We believe that charity to the sick and suffering is an instinctive virtue in every human heart, and that it is not dependent on either good times or bad.

Thus, after forty years of vicissitudes, we approach the end of our story. Will you help to make it a happy ending—an ending which will inspire us to begin a new story of even greater triumphs over the many sufferings of mankind.

Cost of Re-Building the Hospital

It is estimated that the cost will be at least £105,000, towards which we have in hand, together with the Margaret Webb Bequest, £15,000, and the Corbett Trustees hope, in the near future, to make a grant of £15,000. We therefore rely entirely upon your generous support to raise the sum to complete the rebuilding of the Hospital.



And now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three;
But the greatest of these is Charity.

1933

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in expressing my interest and sympathy with the rebuilding of the Corbett Hospital by enclosing a gift of £

Name _____

Address _____

To

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SIDNEY LAW, Woodthorpe, Nr. Stourbridge. Chairman

E. D. TROW, Midland Bank Ltd., 114 High Street, Stourbridge. Hon. Treasurer

W. G. H. WESTON, The Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge. Secretary

Please delete the names not applicable.

Cheques should be made payable to the Corbett Hospital.

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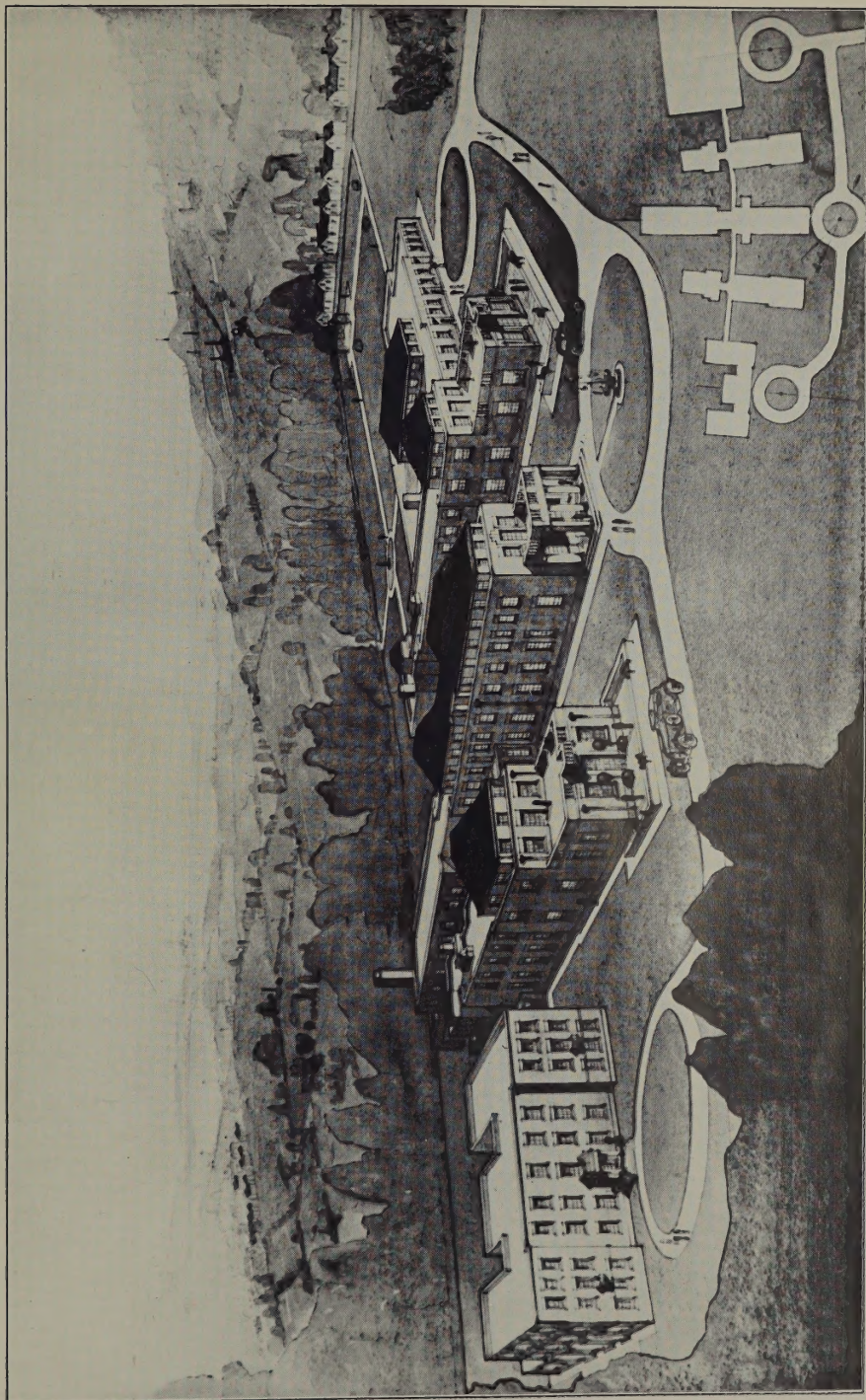
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